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DELEGATES TO THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP

Washington, D. C., June 17 - 23, 1937

VIRGINIA

<u>Delegate</u>	<u>County</u>
Ned Crawley	Prince Edward
Margaret Dickerson.	Essex
Eleanor Kash.	Campbell
William E. Skelton.	Dinwiddie

Mr. Crawley writes:

"It was in 1932 that I became interested in 4-H club work. My home is in a small rural town on a lot of about 3 acres on which my father has poultry and about 2 acres of garden and truck crops, with which I did some work.

"The first year I chose poultry as my project and began with 35 hens. That year I received my first training in poultry raising and the care of poultry houses. I did not know that chickens had to have well-balanced diets; I did not know that poultry houses had to be planned; I did not know that certain kinds of chickens were best for certain purposes; I did not know that poultry houses had to be cleaned and sprayed every so often. I learned this. Then there was my first experience in business. For the first time I had the thrill of making my own money and being able to start my own bank account. I was also shown the importance of keeping an accurate record of the year's business and was guided in doing this by the outline in my record book.

"I was elected secretary of my club this first year. Besides the experience in leadership which I received from this office, there was experience in program participation. I also enjoyed camp life at the Hampden-Sidney Short Course. My project work this year was with 35 hens from which I received \$76.53.

"In 1933 I was able to increase my project, adding 10 hens to the original number and making improvements in my equipment. I bought new and more satisfactory feeders, enlarged the range for the chickens, rearranged nests, dropping boards, etc., and installed a new ventilating system. I kept a record even more accurate than the one in 1932. My efforts during the year nearly doubled my bank account. The returns for my 45 hens this year was \$151.67. During this year I was elected reporter for the club.

"By this time I had learned enough about raising poultry and had sufficient equipment to manage my project in a more businesslike way and on a better paying basis. I decided to start marketing my eggs through the Federal Egg Grading Station at Prospect. I found this plan even more satisfactory and helpful than I had expected, for I not only received higher prices

for my eggs but came in personal contact with Federal and State specialists, who visited my poultry houses and gave many helpful suggestions for improvement in equipment and care of birds and eggs. I learned through them that quality in produce was much more important than quantity. Under their guidance I worked out a well-balanced diet for my chickens, one that greatly improved my egg production and quality. My project returns that year were \$273.10. This was the first year that I made an exhibit at the fair. I won the blue ribbon in the Leghorn Pullet class. I was reelected reporter for my club and was elected secretary of the County Council.

"In 1935 I increased my number of hens to 65 and enlarged my poultry house. Most of my efforts that year went to the improvement of the quality of my eggs. In the fall of the year I attended several classes and demonstrations on poultry judging and became a member of my club's team. I won first place in judging at our county fair and went to the State fair to judge on the team from my county. I made several exhibits at the 5-County Fair and won prizes. From my 65 hens my returns were \$335.24.

"In 1935 I was elected president of my club and also president of the County Council. In our club we sponsored several entertainments and increased our treasury to about \$30, the most we had ever had. This was used for our community projects and also for sending delegates to various club meetings and short courses. I placed first in county health contest and second in the district. At Hampden-Sydney I was made a group leader and was elected president for the following year.

"In 1936 I did not increase the size of my poultry project; however, I did add two new projects, wildlife conservation and farm-account record. I found these projects very interesting and helpful. For this year I worked particularly on the conservation project, doing many worth-while things in that field. Outside of steps taken in the protection of wildlife (especially birds), I planned to rearrange the grounds around my home, adding shrubbery, rock garden, fishpond, etc. I began to work on this in the fall and completed it the following spring.

"Although I found my work on my Farm Account Record Book very beneficial, I did not accomplish as much in it as I had hoped to, as we only have a small place and raise only poultry and vegetables for truck gardening. This year I also won out in poultry judging at the 5-County Fair and judged at the State fair. My returns from my projects were \$366.35. I was reelected president of my club and county council. I attended the Hampden-Sydney Short Course and was reelected president for 1937. I won first place in the county health contest and third place in the State health contest. I had the privilege of attending the conservation camp at Jamestown.

"This year I am increasing my poultry project, continuing my conservation project, and, in addition, taking up the new nature-study project."

Miss Dickerson writes:

"When the first agent came to this county and started talking 4-H club and the other children in the community joined, of course I had to do as they did. The leader announced that we should bring a piece of goods for a dress to the next meeting. I was pleased but when she said, 'You put it out on the table and I'll help you pin the pattern; you do the cutting', I wasn't so thrilled. How hard it was to get that dress made. I began to think more of my ability to do things and began to try. I found that I could sew very well with little help, and I have been sewing ever since.

"They began giving demonstrations in canning and telling us that we must can alone. I had helped to do all except put the product in the jars. We used the open-kettle method, but I had never tried that. One day, after I had picked and washed some berries, I was asked to do all the work of canning. Oh such a time! I couldn't even get the rubbers on the jars, but the agent didn't put them on for me. I finally finished that lot and I said I never would again. But I found I was mistaken. Now I can watch and give suggestions or do the work.

"In 1934, with the agent's help I bought $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 10-cent print and made a house dress in which I modeled in the county "correct dress contest." Imagine my surprise when my name was read as winner. In about a month, I went to Blacksburg and modeled again in my 50-cent dress, and again I won first place.

"That year, I was very happy when presented a county medal for my club work. I found people were interested, and I began to try just a little harder. I have made two luncheon sets, four hooked rugs, footstools, laundry bags, dresser sets, and many other things since.

"In 1936 I entered the health contest, and came out second in the county, and first in the judging of foods. This gave me another trip to Blacksburg and was made an All Star while there, and I again brought back State honors to my county."

Miss Kash writes:

"I started my club work by keeping a canning budget for my family of seven and helping with the canning. On these merits I was able to attend the Hampden-Sydney District Short Course. A club was finally organized in January of the year 1933.

"My experiment the first year was clothing. First an apron, then a pair of pajamas, two pieces of underwear, and two dresses were experimented on. The second dress was a good experiment for I got second in the county.

"I was made vice president of my club in the fall of 1933.

"Canning was my minor experiment. I entered three contests, winning two seconds and one first in the county.

"This same year I attended the State Short Course held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. I took dairy-cattle judging, winning third in the class.

"In the year 1934 I experimented on clothing again. I made a dress of blue cotton print and the other necessary garments that were required for entering the dress contest. I received first. In the district contest, I won first. In the State contest I was defeated.

"My canning experiment was still being used as a project. I had increased my canning almost double, that is the cans that I had canned alone. I kept the family budget. I entered every contest and won two seconds and one third.

"At the district short course in 1934 I was elected secretary for the coming year.

"I was elected vice president of the County 4-H Council for the year 1935-36.

"I concluded my clothing experiment, by making a green wool dress. The county contest was over with me on top. Then the district, with me still in the lead. The State was what you call a fight, the other girl getting first.

"My jar of chicken won first in the county. At the District Short Course, I was secretary and leader of a tribe.

"For 1935 my county carried home improvement as a project. As this was our first year, we were to improve our own bedroom. I painted my entire room. Since this was done, the beds had to be done over. I painted these and found a table which I painted and used as a bedside table with a lamp on it. I also varnished the porch chairs. For the reading unit, I found a table at an auction house and scraped the paint off and finished it like new.

"I was still experimenting on canning this year, doubling my usual canning record, but I didn't enter any of the contests.

"The State short course opened in full swing, the biggest short course ever was promised, and it was. The biggest event for me came on Friday evening, when I was taken into that great organization of All Stars.

"I have been one of the older girls in my club and have had the opportunity of leading the younger girls. Doing this has meant more to me than the other things in 4-H club."

Mr. Skelton writes:

"Ten years ago I first joined club work. At first I thought the 4-H's stood for a name. When I became a member I found out differently. I also learned that if I stayed in the club I would have to work.

"In 1927 - my first year of club work, my aunt gave me one setting of eggs and my mother gave me another. I raised 16 chickens out of this flock which netted me \$12. In the years of 1927 through 1933 I specialized in poultry. I got my poultry project on a paying basis, and at the same time built up my flock in quantity and quality. At first I thought that all you had to know about poultry was how to feed the hens and gather the eggs. I soon found out that you had to keep down diseases, feed the hens a balanced ration, and keep building for a purer breed.

"In 1933 I added corn to my project work so I would not have to buy all my feed for the poultry. I got 38 bushels of corn from 1 acre, which was valued at \$30.40. This corn was not certified.

"In 1934 I increased my poultry flock to 39 hens which netted me \$38. My two acres of corn from certified seed gave a yield of 100 bushels. This corn crop netted me \$76.35.

"In 1935 I increased my poultry project from 39 hens to 81, which netted me \$94.51, making 1935 my best year in my poultry project. My uncle, who runs a dairy farm, gave me a purebred Guernsey calf to start a dairy project. Now my two main projects are dairying and poultry, and I carry corn to raise feed for my poultry and calf.

"In the summer of 1933 I wanted to go to the Jamestown 4-H Club Camp. I had heard so much about the camp. The first two days were very discouraging. I only knew four or five people. However, I soon came in closer contact with other boys and girls and before the week ended, I knew nearly everyone there. At the camp that summer I discovered that there is always something new to learn in 4-H club work.

"The following summer of 1934 I was sent as a delegate to the Jamestown camp and since I was older I got a lot more out of the courses that were taught. One of these was to become "big chief" at Jamestown 4-H camp, and another to become an All Star club member. The year of 1936 brought the realization of both of my aims of the year before, for my club selected me as a delegate to attend the 4-H Short Course held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where I was taken into the All-Star chapter.

"After I had been in the club for 2 or 3 years it nearly always fell to me to take part on the program whenever anything about poultry was discussed. It was hard at first to get up before a group and demonstrate to them what they should do, although each time it became easier.

"During the 10 years I have been in club work I have earned from my projects and premiums a total of \$790.85.

"I entered V. P. I. this year and am working my way through college obtaining work under the N. Y. A. Had it not been for my 4-H club earnings I would not have been able to enter college.

"When I enrolled at V. P. I. in September of 1936, the first person who welcomed me was a 4-H club member. I joined the 4-H alumni club here at school, where there are boys from all parts of the State. I enjoy being able to keep up with my 4-H work while in school."

Extension Service,
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